

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00549 240926Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EA-10 EB-08 COME-00
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-----097916 240932Z /16

O 240935Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2417
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0549

E.O. 11652GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS: MAY 24,1978

1. MORALE AMONG SHABAN EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY. UNEASINESS THAT A SECOND KOLWEBU-TYPE ATTACK COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME IN ANY OF SHABA'S TOWNS IS PERVASIVE. SOME EUROPEANS HAVE ASKED ABOUT ACQUIRING ARMS TO FORM THEIR OWN MILITIA UNITS BUT ALL AUTHORITIES ARE IN STRONG OPPOSITION. A DELEGATION FROM THE FRENCH, BELGIAN, AND GREEK CONSULATES VISITED LIKASI, SHABAS SECOND LARGEST TOWN ON MAY 23 TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES TO THEIR CITIZENS (NO AMERICANS ARE PRESENTLY IN LIKASAI) IN THE EVENING A CONTINGENT OF 40 FRENCH PARATROOPERS ARRIVED IN LIKASI WHERE THEY WILL BE STATIONED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS AT A MINIMUM. SIMILAR UNITS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR THE OTHER MINING TOWNS OF KAMBOVE, KIPUSHI, AND LUBUMBASHI. GCM OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY HOPE THE FRENCH TROOPS ARE ABLE TO REMAIN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

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2. COMMERCE BETWEEN LUBUMBASHI AND OTHER TOWNS HAS COME TO A HALT BECAUSE ZAIRIAN MILITARY RESTRICTIONS ON CIVILIAN MOVEMENTS. THE SHABAN CONSULAR CORPS IS PREPARING A JOINT DEMARCH TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ASKING THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN SHABAN TOWNS AND CURFEW HOURS BE EASED.

3. ZAMBIAN BORDER: OFFICIALS FROM SODIMPBE, THE JAPANESE MINING COMPANY LOCATED AT THE ZAIRIAN-SAMBIAN BORDER REPORTED THAT ON THE EVENING OF MAY 22, THE ZAIRIAN CUSTOMS OFFICE AT KASUMBALESA (1216S/2747E) WAS BURNED COMPLETELY GUTTING THE BUILDING. THE JAPANESE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE. THE ZAIRIANS CLOSED THEIR SIDE OF THE BORDER TO ALL TRAFFIC ON MAY 23. THE RAILROAD REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH ITS HAS NO CONTACT AT PRESENT WITH ITS BORDER TOWN OF SAKANIA TRAINS HAVE CONTINUED TO MOVE BETWEEN ZAMBIAN AND ZAIRE.

4. REOPENING KOLWEZI: A DELEGATION FROM GECAMINES IS VISITING KOLWEZI ON MAY 24 TO ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE TO THEIR INSTALLATIONS. THE RAILWAY OFFICIALS ARE STILL AWAITING PERMISSION FROM MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO SEND THE FIRST TRAIN FROM LIKJSI TO KOLWEZI. IF PERMISSION IS RECEIVED TODAY, A TEST RUN WILL BE MADE ON MAY 25 TO CHECK FOR MINES. IF THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS THE FIRST TRAIN CARRYING CORN AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS FOR KOLWEZI'S REMAINING RESIDENTS WILL BE SENT ON MAY 26.
BORG

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